IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Original): A bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia* which has been constructed from a sucrose non-assimilative strain belonging to the genus *Escherichia*, the bacterium harboring sucrose PTS genes and having an ability to produce an amino acid other than threonine.

Claim 2 (Original): The bacterium according to claim 1, wherein the bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia* is *Escherichia coli*.

Claim 3 (Original): The bacterium according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the amino acid is selected from the group consisting of homoserine, isoleucine, lysine, valine and tryptophan.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ An isolated bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia* which has been constructed from a ~~sucorse~~ sucrose non-assimilative strain belonging to the genus *Escherichia*, the bacterium harboring sucrose non-PTS genes comprising at least genes coding for a permease, invertase and fructokinase and having an ability to produce and accumulate an amino acid in a medium when the bacterium is cultured in the medium.

a4

Claim 5 (Cancelled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The bacterium according to claim 4 ~~or 5~~, wherein the bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia* is *Escherichia coli*.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The bacterium according to ~~any of claims 4 to 6~~ claim 4 or 6, wherein the amino acid is selected from the group consisting of threonine, homoserine, isoleucine, lysine, valine and tryptophan.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A method for producing an amino acid comprising the steps of cultivating the bacterium according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claims 4, 6, or 7 in a culture medium to produce and accumulate the amino acid in the culture medium, and collecting the amino acid from the culture medium.

Claim 9 (New): The bacterium according to claim 4 or 6, wherein the sucrose non-PTS genes are *csc* genes.

Claim 10 (New): The bacterium according to claim 9, wherein the *csc* genes is originated from *Escherichia coli.*

a4

Claim 11 (New): The bacterium according to claim 7, wherein the sucrose non-PTS genes are *csc* genes.

Claim 12 (New): The bacterium according to claim 11, wherein the *csc* genes is originated from *Escherichia coli.*